

THE
OCTAGON

A Journal of The American Institute of Architects



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A Synopsis

TO EACH MEMBER OF

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

MANY years ago a few architects established The American Institute of Architects and stated its objects to be—

"To organize and unite in fellowship the Architects of the United States of America,

"To combine their efforts so as to promote the aesthetic, scientific, and practical efficiency of the profession, and

"To make the profession of ever increasing service to society."

These objects are not separate and independent of each other. Rather, the three are parts of one whole purpose—service, to members, to the profession, to society. Each one is complementary to the others.

Nor are these objectives static. They were not intended to be fixed for any one time or any one place. The third object—the ultimate aim—declares for "ever increasing service to society." The Institute was planned as a vital force—a concept as important to the members today as it was to the great founders three quarters of a century ago. It must make its appeal to youthful minds, be their years of experience few or many.

The attainment of these objectives will be approximated by the joint actions of men motivated by the logic of submitted proposals, contributing to these ends and by the emotions so aroused.

It is the responsibility, therefore, of the Directors, Officers and Committee members to interpret these objects in terms of the present needs of the profession and of society—the shelter needs; to define them in specific proposals; and then to promote

their realization by directing the joint action of the men of the Institute and by seeking the cooperative action of other men.

Out of the experience of many years the Institute has developed a plan of organization for performing these functions of designing, defining and doing. The plan recognizes two phases of Institute activities—one national and the other local.

Its national affairs are the responsibility of the Officers, the Directors and the national Committees.

Its local affairs are the responsibility of the Chapters—their officers, committees and members.

By arranging this distribution of functions, the founders made it possible for national leadership to function—through discussions, personal meetings, and by correspondence, with a knowledge of the general conditions affecting each major problem.

Chapter action is equally as important as national action. In fact, except in a few special cases, the national responsibility cannot be discharged effectively unless the Chapters perform efficiently. Strong Chapters are the foundation for a strong Institute. Chapter strength is a condition precedent.

The allocations of national affairs to Officers and Committees are described in the By-laws, Convention Resolutions, and in instructions of the President. Each Committee is responsible for the development of the scope and details of its work, and for action in making its program effective.

The present standing and special committees may be conveniently listed according to their major responsibilities under three classifications, corresponding with the three objects of the Institute. The names of the committees indicate the general character of their functions.

Service to Members

Jury of Fellows	Finance
Board of Examiners	Constitution and By-laws
Investment	Membership
Practice	History of Institute
Judiciary	Convention Program
Building	

Service to Profession

Competitions	Honor Awards
Contracts	Schedule of Charges
Registration Laws	State Societies
Foreign Relations	Filing System
Standard Accounting	Construction Industry Relations

Service to Society

Allied Arts	Historic Buildings
Public Works	City and Regional Planning
Education	National Capital Housing
Public Information	
Structural Service	

Of course, the efforts of all these Committees are directed toward the major objectives of the Institute. There is but one front to be advanced although it is comprised of many sectors with its respective commanders. The work of the committees is performed by members of the Institute who contribute their services as they are moved by a desire to aid in the accomplishment of its general objectives, or of specific parts.

Now all of the foregoing is obvious. It would be presumptuous to restate these facts at this time were it not that the obvious is so easily forgotten in the exploration of the obscure. At least, I have found it necessary to get all these facts clearly in mind before planning the activities of the Institute for the coming year. I believe a similar analysis and restatement would be valuable to each committee whether old or new.

So much for the general background.

Now for the specific action which has been taken by the Institute authorities since the present administration assumed its responsibilities on June 1st. The Directors, at the post-convention meeting in Milwaukee, abolished seventeen of the thirty old special committees; reestablished thirteen of them; and created four new special committees—namely, Housing, Construction Industry Relations, Convention Program, and History of the Institute. The work of some of the old committees had

been completed and the continuing functions of the others, which were not reestablished, have been assigned either to the reestablished or to the new committees. The effect is to consolidate the forces of the Institute, and to assure greater results in certain vital objectives.

The Committee on Housing will take as its field the entire subject of housing, including the work of the former Committees on Small Houses and on the Economics of Site Planning and Housing. In addition, this Committee will be responsible for conferring with the officials of the Housing Division of the Public Works Administration, with the Federal Housing Administration, and with the Home Owners' Loan Corporation. It will be an advocate of the right relation of the architect to these Federal programs. Also, the Committee will present for the consideration of the Institute a comprehensive program for the solution of the national housing problem.

The Committee on Construction Industry Relations takes over the continuing functions of the former Committees on Industrial Relations, Building Practices, Health and Safety, and Architects' Code—in accordance with the intent of a Convention resolution. This Committee will also maintain relations with the other elements of the construction industry, such as the engineers, the contractors, the producers, exclusive of the field covered by the Structural Service Committee.

The Committee on Program for the 1936 Convention was established so that it might have a full year to develop a program of interest and value to the delegates. It was particularly instructed to restrict the business sessions as much as possible and to expand the sessions having to do with architecture in its aesthetic and scientific phases.

The Committee on the History of the Institute was formed in accordance with the Convention resolution for that purpose.

As a rule, the memberships of these national committees will be small, with chapter representatives in those cases that appear desirable. This scheme will make it possible for the committees to meet in many cases, but where that is impossible, to discuss their problems by correspondence within the limits of the practicable. Large committees spread all over the United States are not practical. In order that the committees may maintain that contact with all Institute members which is so necessary, chapter representatives will be appointed to receive communications from the committees, to

collect information for them, and to act in their respective territories.

The names of the chairmen and vice-chairmen who will direct the national committees for the coming year are printed elsewhere in this number of THE OCTAGON. They are called to contribute their time to the advancement of the Institute, and to the accomplishment of its objectives. They will be effective just so far as the members of the Institute back them up in their various fields of activity.

The Chapters and the individual members are the foundation of The Institute. I have written

to each Chapter President that I shall call upon him and the members of his Chapter for real service. This is neither a threat nor a warning. It is a promise. And all the responses thus far received have pledged the utmost support to the Institute for the coming year. So, the Officers and the Committees are challenged to put forth their best efforts at headquarters, assured that the men in the field will do their part. I have no doubt of the outcome.

STEPHEN F. VOORHEES,
President.

A Challenge

THE President of the Institute in organizing the Committee on Housing for the coming year recognized that the Committee's program cannot be set up at once. It must be evolved.

Clearly it will not be possible for any group to present at a given time a comprehensive chart of the active and changing currents which surround the discussion of "better housing" in the United States. It is proposed, therefore, as an immediate first step to bring to the architects of the country authoritative statements of the ways in which they can cooperate with agencies working for the realization of purposes which architects can and should support.

The first of these is dealt with by Mr. Colean's letter to the Housing Committee, here published, which invites the architects to join with the Federal Housing Administration in raising the standard of housing (shall we say "houses"?) in the United States, and to assist that Government agency in promoting greater activity in the residential branch of the construction industry.

Members of the Institute will realize that the plan of F. H. A. presents an opportunity for helpful professional practice which many archi-

itects have failed to grasp; it points to a need for service in a field to which the commercial agent has given more attention than has the architect; it *challenges* the profession to make good its assertion of the right of the private professional to be employed as against the organization of a government service.

It is no secret that unless architects can find a way to meet the need for adequate plans, specifications and supervision, others must fill this gap in the process of making government aid available to citizens. Members of the Institute are urged not to neglect this opportunity for service,—not to fail to meet this call to perform a useful part in society.

In accord with Mr. Colean's letter the Committee on Housing, with the approval of President Voorhees, is now asking each Chapter President to appoint an *interested and qualified* member to assist the Institute Committee in bringing the program of the Federal Housing Administration to the attention of the architectural profession in every community.

R. H. SHREVE, *Chairman*
Committee on Housing, A. I. A.

An Open Letter from Miles L. Colean

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERAL HOUSING ADMINISTRATION
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS.

THE Federal Housing Administration seeks the cooperation of the architectural profession in raising American housing standards.

Two distinct and equally vital opportunities exist in almost every community in the country, (1) one lies in the type of dwelling structure most

typical in a given community and (2) the other with the builders and owners, who, because of location or insufficient means, have not had adequate architectural services made available to them. The possibility of capitalizing these opportunities depends on the extent to which

Mr. Colean's letter—*Continued*

architects can exert their influence in the community.

(1) While American communities have been characterized as being monotonously similar in their organization and appearance, it is none the less true that nearly every city of any considerable age or size has developed a variety of dwelling types more or less peculiar to itself, which through widespread copying have come to be generally looked upon by builders and tenants alike as acceptable housing. Outstanding examples of such local types are the row house of Baltimore, the somewhat different row house of Philadelphia, the "income-bungalow" of Buffalo, the subdivision bungalow of Detroit, the two-flat building of Chicago, the patio bungalow of San Francisco.

This typically local housing has been developed wholly outside of the influence of the architectural profession. The creation of its form, except insofar as it has been dictated by the pattern of land subdivision and by land price, has been largely accidental, and the persistence of its form has been a matter of habit. In no case is there evidence of any conscious thought directed to the evolution of a type especially fitted to the life of the community in which it happens to exist; and rarely will the typical local development be found to conform to any standard of light, air, privacy, comfort or convenience which is acceptable to the informed physician, social worker or architect.

Without some positive force being brought to bear, the prospect of improvement in the character of this housing, which comprises the shelter of a substantial proportion of the population, is slight; and, due to the ingrained habits of developers and builders and to the sentiments of owners and occupants, resistance to change is extremely strong.

The only force broadly available is that of the architectural profession as it may be exerted through its local professional groups and organizations. It is vital to the future of our civic development, as it is possible of development as a source of remunerative endeavor, that architects become acquainted with the housing typical of their communities, and that they study whatever causes have prompted its existence and gauge the sentiment which makes for its persistence. Then they can develop such improvements in type or such changes of type as, while satisfying local requirements and sentiments, will produce housing that is more healthful and more livable.

(2) The second opportunity lies in the field of

small structures everywhere and of dwellings of all types in the small communities. Neither the small dwelling in the large center nor the majority of dwellings in small centers has to any important degree known the benefit of architectural service. To some extent the commercial stock plan has offered a partial substitute but in a considerable number of cases any drawings or specifications worthy of the name are non-existent, while anything corresponding to architectural supervision is unknown. The result is not only that the dwellings in the classes mentioned are usually poorly planned, ill-adapted to locale, unattractive in appearance, and uneconomical in their utilization of materials, but that the inadequacy of contract documents and of supervision leave buyer and builder alike subject to unforeseen costs.

Here again is a matter which is probably best attacked through group action. The individual architect, due to inexperience and to lack of sufficiently broad contact, is frequently unable to work profitably in this field. Moreover, it is not the individual practitioner who is to sell himself but the whole idea of architectural service which must be sold. Widespread changes in professional techniques and practices must be adopted in order to make architects effective in this type of work. Group action, certainly at the outset, seems advisable.

The two types of housing which have been referred to constitute easily eighty percent of the residential building units of this country. The magnitude of this field provides opportunity for millions of dollars in fees which the architectural profession through its neglect has lost to itself, just as the community has lost the values arising from sound, economical and comfortable dwellings. Ready-made answers to these problems are not to be found, and satisfactory solutions, if reached at all, will be reached only after the most diligent and whole-hearted study and experiment.

In addition to the problems outlined above, in many communities there exists an absolute lack of knowledge of the value and technique of providing adequate drawings, specifications and other documents as the basis for the contract when building a home. In many areas it is almost impossible to secure such documents because the trained personnel does not exist. The Federal Housing Administration requires such documents for a commitment to insure a mortgage for new construction and it is finding it extremely difficult to secure these in adequate form in many localities. The provision of these documents is very important, and time spent in publicizing their essential

value should result in a greater appreciation of their value and the value of the services of an architect.

The possible rewards, however, which await success are not only in increased income but in an increased influence of the profession on the social and economic world. This objective merits all the efforts which can now be applied to its attainment. The Federal Housing Administration will be glad to cooperate with any such endeavor in communities where its offices are located, in conjunction with its avowed endeavor to raise the standard of housing and to bring about greater activity in that branch of the construction industry.

For the past few years, the inactivity of the building industry has greatly limited the architectural profession. To stimulate residential building the Federal Housing Administration has launched a program which, through the insurance of loans (1) refinancing existing homes and (2) mortgages for new homes, is designed to induce lending institutions to loan money. The proper establishment of a stabilized mortgage market, and the provision of a market for labor and materials dependent on an increased building program, is a vital issue at present. If the architect is prepared to educate, not only his clients but the potential clients in his locality concerning the importance of the Federal Housing Administration program, he will do much to create confidence and stimulate building, resulting in a direct benefit to the architectural profession. The architect is the logical general advisor for his client, and should be prepared to assist him in the study of the financial set-up and to recommend the most appropriate type of financing in addition to offering the traditional architectural services in the design, construction and supervision of the client's project.

For the information of architects who desire to aid and to participate in this work it is suggested that heads of local groups of architects meet with the Chief Architectural Supervisor and develop a concerted program of action along the lines of the insurance program outlined in the following notes.

ELIGIBLE MORTGAGES

Title II of the National Housing Act (1934) provides for a *Mutual Mortgage Insurance* system for loans on residential properties. These include dwellings for from one to four families and low-cost housing developments for a number of family

units located in one or more structures. On the former types of buildings, mortgages may be insured when they do not exceed \$16,000, represent not more than 80% of the appraised value, and are amortized monthly over a period of not more than twenty years. On low-cost housing projects, a maximum amortized mortgage of \$10,000,000 may be insured. The Federal Housing Administration is permitted to insure the refinancing of existing properties up to \$1,000,000,000 and to insure a similar amount of mortgages for new construction.

ADVISE CLIENTS ON FEDERAL HOUSING ADMINISTRATION

The architect should be fully informed about this plan of insurance and the policies of the Federal Housing Administration. He should be in a position to give his client accurate information on the requirements for eligible properties, procedure in making applications for loans, lending agencies cooperating with the Federal Housing Administration and other data which will facilitate the financing of his client's property under the Mutual Mortgage Insurance plan. Both the architect and the Federal Housing Administration may benefit by cooperation in placing this system before the public.

FEDERAL HOUSING ADMINISTRATION CIRCULARS

The Federal Housing Administration offers a variety of comprehensive data which will be of value to the architect in his understanding of the regulations and policies which govern the insurance of mortgages on residential properties. Since the bulk of the architects' clients are interested at present in residential structures, the architect should study the series of circulars. They may be secured from the local District Insuring Office or the Federal Housing Administration, Washington, D. C.

CIRCULAR NO. 1—MUTUAL MORTGAGE INSURANCE (Revised June 24, 1935)

This circular gives the Administrative rules of the Federal Housing Administration for Mutual Mortgage Insurance, and includes the regulations governing the approval of mortgagees, a list of institutions eligible as approved mortgagees, the procedure for application to these agencies or the Federal Housing Administration, or both, and the types of mortgages eligible for consideration by these agencies. It defines the qualifications of eligible mortgagors and the general rules determining eligible properties, as well as definitions of

Mr. Colean's letter—*Continued*

terms used in all sections of the rules. It sets up limits, rates, and permitted charges on insured mortgages, classifies the types of mortgages as they relate to risk characteristics, maturity dates, premium charges, etc., and gives other valuable information relating to the rights and duties of approved mortgagees, and assignments. A copy of the National Housing Act (1934) with specific reference to Title II may be consulted, but the above circular covers the essential portions of this Act.

CIRCULAR NO. 2—PROPERTY STANDARDS

In keeping with its stated aims, i.e., "the improvement of housing standards and conditions" the Federal Housing Administration has set forth both *minimum* and desirable property standards covering neighborhoods, land utilization, designs, plans, accommodations, construction, and service and equipment. This is an attempt to maintain high standards where they exist and raise them elsewhere. It is important that the architect be familiar with these, for they establish the physical requirements for properties which constitute eligible security for mortgage loans. The Federal Housing Administration believes that the aim of improving housing conditions by setting up standards for light, ventilation, construction, etc., aids in the realization of economically sound or stable residential real estate values.

CIRCULAR NO. 3—LOW-COST HOUSING

The requirements for the insurability of mortgages on multi-family low-rental housing projects are set forth, and serve as a guide to the preparation of an application for the insurance of a mortgage for a housing development. It lists the information which will be required on rentals, neighborhood characteristics, economic factors and other data necessary for the proper judgment of the need for low-rental dwellings and of the feasibility of the solution as outlined by the project's sponsor. It outlines application procedure which differs from that given in Circular No. 1 for the insurance of mortgages on individual one to four family homes.

CIRCULAR NO. 4—OPERATIVE BUILDERS

Circular No. 4 states the policy of the Federal Housing Administration in assisting the operative builder, and defines the special regulations covering the various types of insured mortgage com-

mitments, and the method for the submission of these projects. The Federal Housing Administration cooperates with the architect in its attempt to stabilize this branch of the building industry and opens the way for his employment by establishing sound property standards. The architect should be prepared to advise these clients as well as the individual home owner.

CIRCULAR NO. 5—SUBDIVISION DEVELOPMENT

Architects recognize the importance of controlled community development, both from the standpoint of a desirable social and physical environment and the stabilization of property values. This Circular states the policy of the Federal Housing Administration with regard to subdivisions and the standards by which it determines the eligibility of properties located within them upon which insured mortgages may be desired. It sets up minimum as well as desirable standards for new developments, and further recommends methods for overcoming defects in existing subdivisions. It seeks to prevent irrational urban growth by requesting statements on demand and marketability of residences located in these areas, and outlines the procedure for the commitments to insure properties. These applications are made direct to the insuring office in the territory in which the subdivision is located.

GENERAL

The architect should be familiar with the various methods of making application for insured mortgages to approved mortgagees and the Federal Housing Administration, and with the fact that it is possible to make direct application to the Federal Housing Administration. The architect should know the approved mortgagees located in his neighborhood. It will be to his advantage if he becomes acquainted with the state Federal Housing Administration Director and the Underwriting Staff, including the chief underwriter, mortgage risk examiner, valuator, and the architectural supervisor. These contacts will be valuable in establishing a source of information and permit greater cooperation. Also he should be acquainted with the appraisal methods and the method of risk-rating properties, in order that he may better advise his clients concerning the factors which in the belief of the Federal Housing Administration make for stability of real estate values.

APPLICATIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL MORTGAGES

It will be valuable to study Federal Housing

Administration Form No. 2004—"Mortgagor's Application for Loan"—and discuss this with the local Federal Housing Administration representatives. These applications should be made to an approved mortgagee.

APPLICATIONS FOR SUBDIVISIONS

It is the policy of the Administration to request information on the subdivision in which the mortgaged property is located. Federal Housing Administration Form No. 2084—"Subdivision Information Form"—should be consulted. This requests information on the physical aspects of the site, accessibility, utilities, streets, parks, restrictions, planning, finance and other pertinent data. An informal opinion may be secured on a new or undeveloped subdivision from the Federal Housing Administration Insuring Offices and will often save both client and architect time and expense if the area is unsuitable for sound insured mortgages or if by consultation the subdivision may be made to meet the standards as set up by the Federal Housing Administration.

APPLICATIONS FOR LOW-COST HOUSING PROJECTS

Low-cost housing provides for loans to public housing authorities, private limited dividend corporations, and other agencies restricted by law or the Administrator in relation to rents, rates, methods of operation, etc. The architect may submit a survey of the proposed project to the Federal Housing Administration, Washington, D. C. on Federal Housing Administration Form No. 2013, "Initial Information required of Sponsors of Low-cost Housing Projects" accompanied by plans and specifications. He may secure

preliminary informal opinions from this source prior to the filing of a formal application.

CONSTRUCTION LOANS

Where a commitment to insure a mortgage on a new dwelling has been issued, it will usually be the case that the prospective mortgagee will make a construction loan to the applicant. If for some reason this arrangement is not feasible, construction loans should be obtainable from any member institution of the Federal Reserve System, since such loans based upon a commitment for an insured mortgage are eligible for rediscount.

Where low-cost housing projects are involved, the insured mortgage becomes effective at the outset of the project and the funds are paid out as the construction work is done.

IN CONCLUSION

The Federal Housing Administration *Mutual Mortgage Insurance Plan* with the proper education of the public, can be one of the greatest factors in the revival of the American building industry. The architect is in a position to take advantage of this program, and the Federal Housing Administration wishes to cooperate by making available to him information concerning its program and its regulations in order that he may make use of the plan to develop work for himself and at the same time to aid in accomplishing the aims of the legislation, improved housing standards, stabilization of the residential real estate and mortgage markets and a revival of the building industry.

The Federal Housing Administration invites the submission of alternate methods for accomplishing these improvements in the building industry.

Reduction of Rates—F. H. A.

ACTING Federal Housing Administrator Stewart McDonald announced on June 24 the new administrative rules and regulations governing the mutual mortgage insurance plan under the amended National Housing Act, to go into effect at once in every insuring office in each of the States.

Chief among the changes are the following:

Reduction of the maximum interest rate allowed on all classes of insured mortgages to a flat five per cent per annum. This is the maximum. Lower interest rates may be charged by the lending institutions.

Reduction of the insurance premium on all

classes of insured mortgages to a flat one-half of one per cent per annum.

Refund in the form of credit to all mortgagors who have been paying insurance premiums at the old rate of one per cent per annum on certain classes of mortgages.

Administrator McDonald said the procedure for obtaining mutual mortgage insurance also has been greatly simplified, both for the present or prospective home owner and for the financial institution extending the mortgage loan.

One of the immediate effects of the revised regulations should be an added acceleration in the volume of mortgage insurance business of the

Administration. In view of the fact that the volume of business under Title II is increasing so much more rapidly than was anticipated, it has been considered sound to reduce the rate of the insurance premium in order to reduce the cost of insured mortgages to homeowners.

Administrator McDonald summarises the chief features of the revised regulations as follows:

1. The maximum interest rate allowed for all classes of home mortgages insured by the Federal Housing Administration is established at five per cent per annum. Any financial institution making a mortgage loan may charge a rate less than five per cent.

Under the old regulations, the maximum interest rate on certain classes of mortgages was five per cent, while five and one-half per cent was the maximum for other classes.

2. Insurance premiums on all classes of mortgages are reduced to one-half of one per cent per annum of the original face value of the mortgage, and this regulation is made retroactive. Home owners who have been paying the old premium rate of one per cent on certain classes of mortgages will receive a credit of one-half of one per cent of the insurance premiums already paid as advance payments on future insurance premiums.

Annual premiums on mortgages insured under the new regulations will be payable on the date the mortgage was insured rather than as heretofore on July 1 of each year.

3. The maximum charge a financial institution is permitted to make for servicing all classes of mortgages is one-half of one percent per annum for the purpose of reimbursing the institution for the service in connection with making monthly collections, payment of taxes, fire insurance, etc.

4. The regulations have been liberalized so that mortgage companies with sound capital funds of \$100,000 instead of the previous requirement of \$250,000 may now qualify as approved mortgagees

if otherwise acceptable. The principal activity of an approved mortgagee must be in the mortgage business, unless it is under the inspection and supervision of a government agency, or unless it is an organization investing permanent trust or endowment funds.

5. Organizations investing permanent trust or endowment funds may be approved as mortgagees even if they are not corporations.

6. One of the most important changes is that the institutions holding an insured mortgage which is in default will, in effect, receive interest on the outstanding principal amount of the mortgage loan from the time foreclosure proceedings are instituted. This interest, from the date of the beginning of the foreclosure proceedings to the date the debenture bonds are issued by the Federal Housing Administration in exchange for the foreclosed property, is added to the face amount of the debenture bonds, and is calculated at the same rate which is provided in the debenture bond. This provision is made retroactive to cover mortgages insured on or after May 28, 1935, the date when the amendment providing for such payment became effective.

Heretofore, the holder of a defaulted mortgage lost the interest on the investment from the time the home owner defaulted in payments until such time as the mortgage was foreclosed and the property turned over to the Federal Housing Administrator, unless the proceeds from the sale of the property were enough to cover this item.

This provision, it was explained, vaults the main objection to the mutual mortgage plan in states where long periods of redemption prevail—especially where moratorium laws are in effect.

7. Insured mortgages will become due on the first day of any month making 12 maturity classifications in each year. Under the old regulations, all insured mortgages matured only on one day of each year, June 30.

Modernization Credit—F. H. A.

REGULATIONS governing the extension of modernization credit by financial institutions for improvement of properties under the \$50,000 provision of the amended National Housing Act opens a new market which should be of direct benefit to practically all industry and of indirect benefit to the nation as a whole.

These revised regulations have been sent to all Federal Housing offices and to all financial

institutions approved under Title I of the National Housing Act.

Under the amended Act, the regulations governing modernization credit for improvement of individual homes, farm properties, churches, clubs, public buildings and similar properties remain substantially the same. The maximum limit for each such property is fixed under provisions of the Act at \$2,000. This type of credit

is being handled as a separate class and is being extended for the purpose of making additions, alterations, repairs and improvement of real property, including also such new construction as garages and certain other similar structures.

The class of modernization credit made possible by the \$50,000 amendment also is being handled

separately. This type of credit is extended for additions, alterations, repairs and improvement for "real property improved by or to be converted into apartment or multiple family houses, hotels, office, business or other commercial buildings, hospitals, orphanages, colleges, schools, or manufacturing or industrial plants." The maximum limit for each property is \$50,000.

The Buffalo Plan—For Small House Plans

THE Buffalo Small House Bureau, operated under the auspices of the Buffalo Chapter of The American Institute of Architects, has issued a Circular of Information regarding the plan of operation and the scope of the architectural service offered by the Bureau to the small home builder.

The Circular is a thoughtfully prepared comprehensive analysis of the perplexing problems encountered by the small home builder who wants

architectural service, and of the architect who would like to give him that service if he could do so at a small margin of profit. Those architects and those chapters of the Institute who are giving serious thought to this basic question of architectural service for the small home builder should not fail to secure this valuable document. It can be obtained from the Buffalo Small House Service Bureau, No. 1 Niagara Square, Buffalo, New York.

The Philadelphia Plan—For Remodelling and Modernizing

AT a meeting of representative registered architects of Philadelphia and vicinity, presided over by D. Knickerbacker Boyd, F. A. I. A., more than fifty architects agreed to make their training and experience available to householders in a manner similar to the services of a doctor.

This marks an innovation in the rendering of architectural service and is a change from precedent in order to bring about a closer contact with home owners at a time when great stress is being placed upon the remodelling and modernizing of homes. The owners of such buildings have heretofore been unable to employ architects except almost solely upon the basis of a complete service involving the preparation of plans, designs, specifications and supervision. This custom has apparently seemed to a large number of home owners to be beyond their resources, thus depriving them and the community of many of the advantages to be obtained through the knowledge and experience of specially trained persons.

The services of capable Philadelphia architects can now be secured for remodelling work on the basis of a nominal charge for an office consultation, or a home inspection.

The fee determined upon is five dollars for a single consultation at the office of the architect, presumably lasting about one hour; and ten dollars

for a visit to the home of the client, lasting a greater length of time.

The obligation of the owner and architect will terminate with each conference unless mutually and specifically otherwise agreed upon.

In other words, any owner of a house which is run-down or in need of repairs, remodelling or other reconditioning can now secure at small cost professional advice and suggestions as to planning of improvements, design, materials and methods, equipment, procedure, selection of contractor, or sub-contractors, awarding of contracts, and, if also desired, and at a further fee, actual drawings and specifications with supervision, or final inspection.

In order to make this special service conveniently available to the average home owner, any citizen may telephone or call a central office where a list of the fifty architects will be made available to him. This will be without obligation, and in the interest of having a registered architect from the neighborhood made available to the prospective client on the special fee basis, after arrangements are concluded for the time and place convenient to each. Or any householder may feel at liberty to telephone or call upon any architect whose name is furnished, for the purpose of arranging for possible consultation.

Court Decisions and Federal Housing

RECENT court decisions adverse to land condemnation in connection with slum clearance and housing projects under the auspices of the Public Works Administration have not killed those projects or nullified the national program—according to A. R. Clas, Director of Housing, whose vigorous statement speaks for itself, as follows:

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS:

Washington, D. C.
July 25, 1935.

Subject: Housing Program

The following statement will answer your inquiry as to the future of the low rent housing program begun by the Housing Division, concerning which the recent court decision on land condemnation seems to have occasioned some apprehension:

Suspension of architects' activities on those projects affected by the recent decision of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals at Cincinnati, does not necessarily imply abandon-

ment of the low rent housing program, nor even release of those architects now under contract to the Housing Division of the Public Works Administration.

As Administrator Harold L. Ickes has previously stated, the program will have to undergo modification in view of the Cincinnati decision, but its continuation is assured by those funds already assigned the Housing Division. In many cities alternate sites are being acquired through direct purchase; in some cities whose housing authorities have been granted the right of eminent domain, land may be acquired through these agencies and conveyed by them to the Federal Government.

Subject to these modifications, it may be announced that the program will go forward.

I appreciate your active interest and desire to keep the profession correctly informed as to what we are doing.

Very truly yours,

(s) A. R. CLAS,

Director of Housing.
For the Administrator.

Regulations Governing New P. W. A. Projects

ANNOUNCEMENT of regulations governing PWA's participation in the \$4,000,000,000 works program under the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935 was recently made by Public Works Administrator, Harold L. Ickes.

The new procedure governing PWA projects provides for examination of projects in the States, a more simple form of contract consisting of an offer by the Government and acceptance by the applicant, advanced payments of a portion of the grant which has been liberalized from 30 per cent of the cost of labor and materials to 45 per cent of the total cost of the project, predetermination of minimum wage rates, in accordance with customary local rates, and other changes as a result of the new law and the experience gained by PWA during two years of successful operation.

The new rules are definitely in the interest of expedition and are in line with the President's injunction that "speed is of the essence".

The new regulations provide that any time

after acceptance by the applicant of an offer by the Government to aid in financing a PWA project, the applicant may request an advance payment on account of the grant of not exceeding 15 per cent of the previously approved estimated cost of the project.

This advance grant may be used for paying architectural, engineering, planning and legal fees, costs of surveys, borings and other preliminary investigations, costs of preparation of plans, specifications and other forms of proposed contract documents, the costs of advertisements for bids for contracts and the printing of bonds, but *not* in payment for the acquisition of lands, easements, or rights-of-way. The request for this advance grant must be accompanied by a signed certificate of purposes.

All of the bonds of the borrower will be taken and paid for by the Government at one time in cases where the offer is to purchase bonds in an aggregate principal amount of not more than \$1,000,000. In all other cases, the bonds will be

purchased by PWA in more than one installment and each installment, in so far as possible, shall be for an aggregate principal amount of not less than \$1,000,000.

The rules provide for inspection of all work by PWA Inspection Division, reports on construction and progress and monthly reports to the Depart-

ment of Labor covering the number of men at work, man-hours worked, the aggregate amount of payrolls and an itemized statement of expenditures for materials.

Further information can be obtained from the Public Works Administration, Washington, D. C., or from local representatives thereof.

"Unit Plans"—Low Rent Housing

THIS new publication contains plans and accompanying data which have been designed and assembled by the Housing Division of the Public Works Administration. Its purpose is to give architects and engineers the benefit of extended information in designing low rent housing units.

Colonel Horatio B. Hackett, Director of Housing at the time the book was issued (and now Deputy Administrator of the Public Works Administration) has written a foreword, as follows:

"While this collection only represents a starting point, it is felt that through the use of it the architects will have definite suggestions with which to approach the problem. The information contained in these pages should substantially speed the work of proper planning.

"Within a surprisingly short time low-rent housing has become a reality. In view of the rapid strides being made these plans are to be considered only in the light of today's viewpoint. The objective of these plan studies is the establishing of standards of planning rather than standardization of plan. The present solutions of housing problems must be looked upon as progressive steps in our education in this field.

"The subject of low-rent housing is new to most architects. In this type of work the house is not an isolated unit. Rather it is a component part of a still larger unit—the regional community, including industrial areas, shopping centers, parks, and residential section; all co-ordinated with transportation.

"It must be kept in mind that the typical units incorporated are for guide purposes only. No

attempt has been made to solve individual problems or local site conditions. Instead, the effort has been to present typical layouts covering different units and combinations of units, in the belief that the architects will use them as aids to develop their own ideas, both for the individual unit and the group plan.

"The broad scope of housing incorporates the many different phases of group planning, such as community buildings, new street systems where necessary, and zoned areas, all of which require detailed study to satisfy the individual demands required by varying local conditions. The unit plan, on the other hand, is a specific problem. Hence its emphasis here.

"It is to be hoped that these ideas will open new avenues of approach in the minds of those using them. If this assemblage of typical plans acts as a stimulus and guide to aid the architects in creating their own ideas, or assist them in the development of their own ideas, this book will have accomplished its aim.

"If we all approach this great work with minds open to its problems and opportunities—technical, social, and economic—and thus are prepared to do jobs worthy of the chances given us, we shall be steadily adding to this book interesting and important contributions from architects, engineers, and builders to whom it is made available."

"Unit Plans" is available at the Housing Division to architects engaged in low-cost housing work. Others having a general interest may obtain copies from the Housing Division at a subscription price of \$2.50, which includes future supplements to be issued from time to time.

Bibliography of State Planning Reports

The National Resources Board, Interior Building, Washington, D. C., has issued a Bibliography of State Planning Reports, available in the Library of the National Resources Board.

This comprehensive bibliography is grouped by states. Copies may be had by architects on request of the National Resources Board, and at no charge.

Construction Industry Relations

THE newly established A. I. A. Committee on Construction Industry Relations, recorded elsewhere in this number of THE OCTAGON, held an organization meeting in New York on July 10. The program of activities adopted embraces the following matters:

- (a) Committee on Contracts.
- (b) Industrial Relations.
- (c) Health and Safety.
- (d) Construction Industry Coordination.

The personnel of the Committee on Contracts, a Standing Committee, is identical with the personnel of the Construction Industry Relations Committee. Suggested amendments to the Standard Documents will be studied under the leadership of Mr. Jones, while Mr. Parker will continue to answer inquiries, as heretofore, as the Institute's "Consultant on Contract Procedure."

The sub-committee on Health and Safety will be under the chairmanship of Mr. Bishop, and the sub-committee on Industrial Relations under the chairmanship of Mr. Ludlow. The activities of these committees and their personnels will be reported in a later issue of THE OCTAGON.

The general program of this new Committee on Construction Industry Relations, and those activities which have to do with construction industry coordination will be under the leadership of Mr. Parker. He and Mr. Jones are also members of the committee on Useful Employment, appointed by the Construction League of the United States. Mr. Jones has been selected as chairman of this committee. This interlocking of the personnel of the two committees was a wise and deliberate move by President Voorhees. Some important phases of the work of the two committees are closely related and for ultimate effectiveness necessarily involve action by the construction industry as a unit through the Construction League.

So far as the architectural profession, as the designing element of the construction industry, is concerned, the A. I. A. committee through its chapter representatives can and should stimulate local interest in and the activities of local Construction League agencies in molding a local public opinion regarding issues arising under the administration of the Work Relief Act of 1935.

XIII International Congress of Architects

THE May number of THE OCTAGON conveyed to the members of the Institute a cordial invitation to attend the XIII International Congress of Architects, and gave preliminary information concerning the arrangements and the program.

A second communication from the American Section of the Permanent Committee of the Congress is now at hand. It invites the American architects in the name of the Permanent International Committee, of its Italian Section, and of the Italian Fascist Syndicate of Architects to participate in the Congress.

So far, more than a half dozen Institute members have signified their intention of attending this Congress. The American delegation will be headed by Stephen F. Voorhees, the President of the Institute, who has also been appointed as

the official delegate of the Federal Housing Administration.

In all probability the American architects attending will receive special credentials from the State Department, and steps will be taken to make their journey to Rome and return one of convenience and enjoyment.

Any members who contemplate going should send their names to the Institute at The Octagon, where they will be submitted to the Department of State, and also to the Secretary of the American Committee of the International Congress, George Oakley Totten, Jr., who is giving personal attention to the arrangements for the American delegates.

The dates of the Congress are September 22 to 28, 1935.

International Exhibition of Arts and Technics—Paris, 1937

The resolution of the Sixty-seventh Convention, with regard to this important International Exhibition appears on page 25 of the June number of THE OCTAGON.

At the request of Julian Clarence Levi, Chairman of the Institute's Committee on Foreign Relations, the following information is published:

The International Exhibition to be held in Paris in 1937 is devoted to Arts and Technics in Modern Life. It will be a demonstration of the efforts made by every nation in the world toward new standards of living, materially and morally, according to the conditions created by the present economic crisis.

It will open in May 1937 and will last six months. The scope of the exhibition includes 14 groups divided into 75 classes.

The site is one of the most beautiful central parts of the City with the River Seine as its main artery on a length of two miles.

The French Government (Ministry of Commerce) and the City of Paris are cooperating in its construction which involves:

1. About 1000,000,000 francs in permanent city planning and architectural improvements;
2. About 320,000,000 francs in temporary construction and garden settings.

The foreign nations are invited to show their achievements in National planning, Education, protection of Public Health, modern arts, technics and all activities where art and science are intimately associated.

The area appropriated for the exhibition covers 90 acres not including the many parts which will be installed on the river itself.

Twenty-two converging avenues and several existing subway lines lead to the exhibition site.

The different exhibits will be presented in a new way, more picturesque, colorful and lively than at any previous exhibition. The various productions will be shown in their logical settings, in shops and working places, opening on streets and gardens and giving the appearance of a city of the future where commercial districts would be laid out for the pleasure of visitors and buyers.

The principal aim of the exhibition is to emphasize the craftsmanship for which particular efforts are made to re-educate the artisans as one of the remedies to the evils of mass production.

A demonstration will also be given that taste and art are not the privilege of the rich and that

beautiful things can be created for consumers of moderate means.

Night illumination will be one of the features, as well as a comprehensive color plan for all the buildings.

Transportation by rail, water, road and air will reveal the latest developments and progress along these lines in a vivid presentation where most of the mechanical devices will be shown in action.

Advertising, broadcasting and television are included in the scope of the exhibition and will be exhibited in a new steel and glass palace built at the base of the Eiffel Tower.

The foreign sections will be the guests of honor and will occupy the very center of the exhibition.

The invited nations may participate in all or any of the following ways:

1. Official pavilions (the site being free of cost, in which the nations will show their typical architecture, and decorations made by their painters and sculptors. The official exhibits may consist of large scale models and plans of the great achievements in national planning, city planning and monumental architecture. For instance, nothing would be admired more than a large model of the Mall and of the great public works recently carried out in the United States. An extensive display of the results obtained in the development of Education and Science as well as the protection of Public Health and Housing, would make the official exhibits more interesting;

2. Private pavilions built by important industrial and commercial firms;

3. Smaller exhibits classified in halls or general pavilions which will be built at the expense of the French Commission and in which floor space will be given free of charge to the exhibitors.

4. Only the exhibitors who will want to have sales rooms, restaurants or other concessions for commercial purposes during the exhibition, will have to pay a rental for the space occupied.

During the exhibition, many Conventions will be organized with regard to Science, National planning, City planning, Architecture, Applied Arts, Building devices and Materials, Furniture, Mechanics, Photography, Radio, Cinema, Theatrical equipment, Advertising art, Fashions, etc.

Further announcements concerning American participation will be made in THE OCTAGON.

With the Chapters and State Associations

(Excerpts from Minutes, Bulletins, and Reports)

Baltimore.

At the June meeting of the Chapter, President William G. Nolting advised, in connection with the Registration Law for Maryland recently passed, that the Governor had asked for nominees for the Board of Examiners. The Executive Committee prepared a list, which the President forwarded to the Governor.

California State Association.

Extracts from Minutes of the May meeting:

Veterans' Activities: Through the joint efforts of your Association in cooperation with the Associated General Contractors, The Producers' Council, and the Veterans' Welfare Board we have succeeded in securing the support of the Veterans' Welfare Board for architects' services on Veterans' homes. This cannot be a mandatory requirement, but will be recommended in their application forms.

Some architects will criticize the five per cent stipulation. This the Veterans' Board insisted upon. There is nothing to prevent an architect from making an agreement for complete services at the usual fee. The five per cent in such a case is included in the cost of the house and comes direct from the Veterans' Bureau while the balance will come from the owner. This five per cent fee for *reduced services* will correspond to clinical work in medicine and should in no way injure the profession or those men who secure higher fees. This agreement with the Veterans' Board is an outstanding accomplishment for the Association this year and should widen the field of architectural appreciation as clinics have that of medicine. It may mean to the profession an income of five per cent on ten to twenty million dollars worth of work.

A meeting was held of a committee representing the architects, general contractors and material dealers, with the object of promoting construction under the present banking and government programs.

Central New York.

At the May meeting of the Chapter, at the University Club in Rochester, F. R. Scherer, A.I.A., of that city, spoke on progress of the State Building Code for School Construction. This Code now being built up is based on many

valuable suggestions from different members.

After the Chapter meeting the delegates were delightfully entertained at a lawn party given by Mrs. L. M. Todd at her home.

Chicago.

The annual meeting of the Chapter was held on June 11, at the Architects Club.

C. C. Beersman, Chairman of the Educational Committee, reported that they have formed a sub-committee on architect education, to visit architect schools in that locality. Two of its members have served on school juries at the Armour Institute.

In his report on the work of the Competition Committee, R. C. Llewellyn, Chairman, reported one piece of work that apparently has done a little good. A letter of protest was written to the chairman of the Building Committee of a church in Chicago, and also to the President of the American Unitarian Association in Boston, concerning an unregulated competition which was being held. Subsequently word was received that the competition was being cancelled and that the church would revise its method of selecting an architect.

The Secretary read a letter concerning Irving K. Pond, Past-President of the A. I. A., which stated that Mr. Pond was celebrating the 60th anniversary of his graduation from Ann Arbor High School, and his 56th anniversary of graduation from the University of Michigan; that he had received a degree of Civil Engineer in 1879, M.A. Degree in 1911, and Hon. Dr. of Architecture in 1930 from the University of Michigan.

A telegram expressing the congratulations of the Chapter was sent to Mr. Pond at the direction of the members then in the meeting.

The President called on Henry K. Holsman to make the presentation of the Fellowship Certificates awarded to Robert S. DeGolyer and William J. Smith, and the new Fellows were introduced to the Chapter.

After the business meeting, a lecture on the "Romance of Oriental Rugs" illustrated with some specially prepared colored slides, was given by Mr. Haig R. Sherkerjian, an authority on the subject.

Cincinnati.

The May meeting of the Chapter was held

jointly with the University of Cincinnati's architectural students and the Architects' Association of Cincinnati.

The chief matter of interest concerned the award of Chapter prizes to the successful architectural students of the University. Professor Ernest Pickering then briefly outlined the method of procedure in judging the work of the students, following which President George Marshall Martin, made the awards as follows: First prize to Calvin Burks; Second prizes to H. G. Winkle and O. E. Erikson.

After adjournment the Chapter members attended the entertaining obsequies performed at the demise of the Architects' Association of Cincinnati, and immediately thereafter were greatly pleased when the orphans of the deceased association were transformed by formal act into living members of the Architects' Society of Ohio. Charles Cellarius, President of the Architects' Society of Ohio, dignified the adoption incident by his presence.

The Chapter and Society members, now relieved of further business, hied their withered bodies through the corridors and rooms to view with satisfaction the splendid annual exhibit of the University's architectural students.

Detroit.

Frank C. Baldwin of Washington, D. C., who recently resigned as Secretary of the Institute, was the guest of honor at a luncheon meeting of the Detroit Chapter. Twenty-five years ago Mr. Baldwin was in Detroit as a partner of William B. Stratton.

Branson V. Gamber, as chairman of the luncheon meeting, asked C. William Palmer, President of the Chapter, to present Mr. Baldwin. Mr. Palmer, in line with custom, in turn asked H. J. Maxwell Grylls, the official greeter, to introduce the guest, whom he said needed little introduction to a Detroit audience.

Mr. Baldwin addressed the meeting. He stated he had always had a very warm place in his heart for Detroit and the Detroit Chapter, formerly known as the Michigan Chapter. He said that in preparing his paper on the Beginnings of the Institute, for the Convention, he had come upon a great deal of matter pertaining to the Michigan Chapter, and that it had been a source of satisfaction to him to find this indication of the important part Detroit had played in the Institute's history.

Another distinguished guest was introduced by

Mr. Grylls—Mr. Johnson, of Gillett & Johnson of Croydon, England, bell founders.

After Mr. Johnson's talk to the members, Mr. Baldwin was called upon for a rebuttal. After many reminiscences, Mr. Gamber reminded him of the time in 1930 when they visited the International Congress of Architects in Budapest. On that trip Mr. Baldwin had some lantern slides of new and proposed buildings in Washington, and was invited to stop in London as the guest at a dinner party given by Sir Bannister Fletcher. At the dinner Mr. Baldwin was seated beside the son of Ramsey McDonald, who is an architect, which prompted Sir Bannister to announce that it was the first time on record when a Baldwin and a McDonald had been seated in amity at the same table.

W. G. Malcomson also did a little recalling of the good old days, and told one of his choice stories. After the meeting Mr. Johnson said he thought it really remarkable the way Detroit architects enjoyed their meetings.

Hawaii.

As a means towards a better understanding of their common problems, the members of the Chapter have inaugurated a series of evening meetings for the discussion of their methods of handling work and the solutions of difficulties found in various jobs.

The meetings are attended by the membership only, with the exception of a few hand-picked guests and are led, each month, by a different member. The result has been most gratifying and a great amount of valuable information has been disseminated.

A single project is usually taken as the subject. The work is described from the inception of the idea right through to the notice of completion. These discussions help not only the listeners but also the speaker as the group is an entirely sympathetic one although not disposed to let a point drop without thoroughly expressing their views.

The idea was approached cautiously by the Committee on Education and Public Information as it was feared the speakers might feel reticence on disclosing the more interesting details of their work; but such was not the case. The meetings have become frank "forums" where every voice is heard and the cards are laid on the table. The membership becomes more closely knit through the opportunity to see into the other fellow's business life and to discover that he has his troubles, too. The younger members of the Chapter profit to a great extent by being prepared for an emergency when it comes and the older

With the Chapters—Continued

members feel that they are instilling in their listeners the sound and tried ideals for which the Institute stands. No member has been embarrassed by disclosing the dire results of his own shortcomings and men of the type making up the Chapter look only on the constructive side of the subjects discussed.

A "no-host" dinner at 6:30 precedes the discussions which last until 9:00 or so. Attendance is approximately 100%. No minutes are kept.

Illinois Society of Architects.

The theme for discussion at a recent meeting of the Society was Interior Wall Treatment in Cabinet Woods and in Wallpapers. Three special speakers were John Henry Smith of J. H. Smith Veneers, Inc., devoting himself to wood; Samuel Schlesinger, President, Chicago Wallpaper Association, concentrating on the decorative possibilities of wallpaper; and Harry Freund, specializing on acoustic wallpaper.

Mr. Smith told of the difficulties today, through cost, of introducing fine woods in the time-tried manner of 5- and 7-ply veneers for panels and solid material for stiles and rails. But this was not all. He showed how the natural color of the wood could be bleached and then inoculated with any color desired to fit a scheme of decoration.

Mr. Schlesinger covered the manufacture of wallpaper from ancient China to about 1460 A.D., showing by sample a reproduction of wallpaper made soon after Gutenberg's printing press was in operation. From this point on many samples were shown and history given of the development of the art down to the present day.

The brevity of Mr. Freund's talk was compensated for in the sensation of his product. The acoustic paper is not alone a surface paper. It includes the application on the wall of corrugated or, better, honeycombed paper board from 5-16ths to 1¼ inches in thickness. This paper board comes in sheets 24 by 32 inches and is treated chemically to be fire-resistant. Any design wallpaper may be selected and before this is applied to the board, the paper is run through a perforating machine to make effective the honeycomb below for acoustic purposes.—*Illinois Society of Architects, Monthly Bulletin.*

Kansas.

At the May Meeting, held in Topeka, reports of various committees were heard. A general discussion followed. Upon motion, it was directed

that the President appoint a committee to contact the State Board of Registration of Engineers to find out what is possible to be done toward inclusion of architects.

A lunch was then enjoyed, with a number of guests from architectural offices in the city.

The afternoon program was given over to talks and among the speakers were Ben Byrnes on F. H. A. Developments; Ted Greist, on H. O. L. C. and Charley Morgan, on Modern Trends in Architecture.

Kansas City.

At a regular meeting in April, President Schumacher read a letter from H. G. Palmer, acting secretary of the Missouri Construction League, inviting the Chapter to become a member of the League, proposing representation of two members of the Chapter at the state organization meeting to be held in Jefferson City. A vote on the question of accepting the invitation to membership was passed unanimously.

Arthur Ward Archer and Arthur S. Keene were appointed to attend the meeting on behalf of the Chapter.

Following the business session at the May meeting, Raymond Voskamp gave a very interesting talk and explanation of the general building drawings of the new Kansas City Municipal Auditorium now under construction. This talk and the examination of the drawings held the attention and interest of those present for the remainder of the evening.

Kentucky.

The notice sent out for a recent meeting of the Chapter, held in the French Village, contained a request to each member to come prepared to present an oral or a written statement not exceeding three hundred words, upon the subject of "What, in his opinion, was the most important problem facing the architect today."

Arthur Tafel read a concise, but pertinent statement. This was followed by a somewhat longer statement by Herman Wischmeyer on several problems facing the architect, today, and the new conditions he will have to meet and adjust himself to. E. T. Hutchings, became a modern Moses and wrote Ten Commandments, stating the things that an architect should do to advance his personal interest and those of the profession, which was very well done. Frederic L. Morgan, being inherently modest and always careful to avoid publicity, made a verbal statement, because he was afraid if it were written it might fall into the hands of reporters who would

publish it in the public press. A man of his prominence naturally has to be very careful in what he says and does, particularly as to the written word.

At another meeting, E. T. Hutchings, Chairman of the Committee on an Architects' Ordinance to be submitted to the Board of Alderman, reported, reading a brief prepared by the attorney, which had been submitted to the Mayor. This brief set forth very ably the reasons why all plans for buildings in Louisville costing over \$4,000 should be prepared by an architect. He also read a very interesting report from the Building Department showing the number and cost of all buildings for which permits had been issued in 1934.

New York.

The Municipal Art Society of New York invited the members of the Chapter to participate in a luncheon at the Rainbow Room at Rockefeller Center on Saturday, May 25. The luncheon marked the opening of the exhibition of plans and drawings of the Park Department of the City of New York at Rockefeller Center, which was on view for two weeks, beginning May 25.

Northern California.

The regular monthly meeting of the Chapter was held at the Clift Hotel on May 28.

The President reported that a communication had been sent to the San Francisco Bay Exposition expressing the hope that local men would be considered in the appointment of architects for the work.

After discussion of this matter, it was directed that the President, Secretary, and Messrs. Bangs, Garren and Morrow be a committee to draw up a further letter offering the assistance and co-operation of the Chapter and soliciting the Board of Directors of the Exposition to look with favor upon the local field.

It was directed, also, that should the Chapter be approached by the Board of Directors of the Exposition, the Board of Directors of the Chapter be authorized to help them in any way it could.

Philadelphia.

The annual meeting of the Chapter was held at the "Lilacs" in Fairmount Park in June.

Arthur H. Brockie was elected President, and Roy F. Larson became the Secretary.

Upon request, the following suggestions were offered by the President as important questions

upon which the Chapter should take an active stand:

That active support be given to the amendment to the Pennsylvania Registration Law, making it mandatory that all building be under the direction of registered architects;

That the Chapter consider how, as residential architects, they may be affected by the new prefabricated houses currently on exhibition, and consider the relation of these houses to the existing building laws;

That a committee be appointed to consider the problem of the young man who seeks to enter the profession.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Chapter gave a rising vote of thanks to Walter Thomas for his work as Technical Director of the City Planning Commission, particularly in its help to the younger architects and draughtsmen during these years of depression.

In response, Mr. Thomas pointed out the importance of the work being done by M. Edmunds Dunlap to improve the Building Code, and mentioned how the present Code makes building in the city impractical and unnecessarily expensive in comparison with other cities.

Mr. Larson spoke of the need of the Institute to make itself attractive to the younger men in college and elsewhere, and to change their attitude toward it. It was suggested that the Chapter give prize junior memberships.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee later in the month, a letter from Fiske Kimball was read, announcing the visit next Fall of La Corbusier, and enclosing another letter stating that the latter's services were available as a lecturer, while in this country.

Pittsburgh.

The May meeting of the Chapter was held jointly with the faculty and seniors of the Department of Architecture of the Carnegie Institute of Technology, at the Carnegie Inn. There were about twenty-five members in attendance and plus the graduating class made quite a group of present and future architects.

President Schwab of the Chapter awarded the Institute and Beaux Arts medals to the winners of these awards among the seniors for the current year. The first group of awards were for high scholarship for the five years' work. The first award went to Francis O'Conner Church; two second awards went to Henry A. Jandl and David Morgan. The next award was the Alpha Rho Chi award for leadership in activities and

With the Chapters—Continued

scholastic standing which went to Henry A. Jandl also. The last was for Beaux Arts Institute award for illumination of a bank, which went to William A. Trimbel.

Talks were given by Professors Hitchens, Grapin, and Sollom of the faculty; Messrs. Schwab, Dowler, Lee, and Hornbostel of the Chapter; and Mr. Chalfant, unattached. As usual the party was very successful.

Rhode Island.

It was the privilege of the Chapter to hold a recent meeting in the Henry Ames Barker Memorial Room, at 106 George Street, which has been opened for meetings of organizations in which he was interested. The members were also given the opportunity of seeing the other portions of this house.

During the business session, it was voted that the matter called to the attention of the Chapter by the Rhode Island Hotel Association, having to do with sign boards and hot dog stands along Route 138, and asking that the Chapter cooperate in urging the state to acquire more land on both sides of this highway, be referred to the State Planning Board.

Mr. Jens Frederick Larson gave a most interesting talk on "Relations with Draftsmen" explaining, to the envy of a good many members, his method of running an office.

South Carolina.

The summer meeting was advanced to April 30, in order to accept the invitation of the Architectural Department of Clemson College to participate in celebrating the first annual architectural day. All registered architects of South Carolina were invited.

The architects inspected the home of John C. Calhoun, Vice-President of the United States and Defender of the Constitution. They then attended the Honor Day ceremonies at the College.

Samuel Lapham, President of the Chapter,

presented the leaders of the senior and junior classes with medals in the name of the Chapter.

The architects next inspected the kitchen and mess hall equipment and later were served with a delightful luncheon, Professor R. E. Lee of the Department of Architecture, presiding. Professor Lee announced that this day was set aside to honor Robert Mills, South Carolina's greatest architect. A paper on the life of Robert Mills was read by one of the students. Sketches and cartoons of those present were made by another student.

Between the courses of the luncheon, the President and Secretary of the Chapter presented the Certificate of Institute Membership to H. S. Singley, using the approved form for the induction of new members.

After luncheon, there was a visit to the Department of Architecture and the various exhibits.

Toledo.

At the May meeting, held at the University Club, it was reported that in view of the possibility of a large program of school construction and modernization in Toledo, through Government financing, the Chapter has offered to the Board of Education the cooperative services of the firms represented in the Chapter and there seems to be a good possibility that this offer will be accepted by the Board in case the program goes through.

The June meeting was in the form of an outing held at the Catawba Cliffs Beach Club, located on Lake Erie, about fifty miles east of Toledo, which lasted from 10:00 in the morning until midnight.

Some of the group played golf in the morning before lunch, and others in the afternoon, while some others took to the lake in a motor boat and tried their hand at fishing.

The entire group was finally rounded up for dinner and spent an interesting hour or so at table, with a fine dinner and cares of business forgotten. Afterwards, the party adjourned to the Tap Room for indoor sports until midnight. The President and Secretary, mindful of the dignity of their offices, returned to Toledo at an earlier hour.

Slums and Blighted Areas in the United States

IS the title of a new publication known as Housing Bulletin No. 1. The author is Dr. Edith Elmer Wood. The publisher is the Housing Division of the Public Works Administration.

This new book on housing contains 126 pages of text, illustrations, and statistical papers.

It is highly commended.

Architects, and other technical and professional men, who desire copies should apply to the Housing Division. Those having a general or lay interest may obtain copies from the Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at 15c each.

As of Interest

J. A. Foulhoux Wins Award.

First prize for a design for a small home of moderate cost in a competition held by the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects was awarded yesterday to J. Andre Foulhoux, A. I. A., of 40 E. 40th Street.

The design calls for a cellarless house, to be built on a cement floor laid close to the ground. The six-room home has straight lines, a flat roof and a stucco exterior.

The heating plant would be placed in the kitchen or just off it. The home, Foulhoux estimated could be built for from \$3,000 to \$5,000.

In Appreciation of Charles T. Ingham.

On June 20 the Pittsburgh Chapter gave a dinner in honor of Charles T. Ingham, the newly elected Secretary of the Institute.

In writing about this meeting, the President of the Chapter, Harvey A. Schwab, reviews the services of Mr. Ingham to the Chapter and to the Institute.

In concluding, Mr. Schwab says: "On my own part, I wish that I could give public testimony as to the personality, ability and charm of the new secretary. Most of us have gotten into the habit of consulting Ingham on all professional matters which may puzzle us, and we have always received wise and well considered advice. Innumerable troubled situations have been adjusted to the satisfaction of all. His leadership has been exceedingly quiet, and its force often masked by his innate modesty."

Federal Reserve Board Building.

The selection of Paul P. Cret, F. A. I. A., as architect for the new building of the Federal Reserve Board, has been announced.

A competition for the award of the contract was held and the designs of nine architects were submitted on invitation to participate. It is expected that the work will begin immediately on the preparation of final plans and specifications. The design and material of the exterior of the building are subject to the approval of the Fine Arts Commission.

The jury which passed upon the designs was composed of three architects and two laymen.

The architects who served were John W. Cross, New York; William Emerson, Boston; and John Mead Howells, New York. Other members of the Jury were Frederic A. Delano, Chairman of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and Adolph C. Miller, a member of the Federal Reserve Board.

The program for the competition was prepared under the direction of Everett V. Meeks, Dean of the School of Fine Arts, Yale University, who acted as the Board's professional adviser.

National Conference on City Planning.

Frederick Bigger, A. I. A., of Pittsburgh, attended the National Conference on City Planning in Cincinnati, May 20-22, as the official representative of The American Institute of Architects.

Mr. Bigger ventures the observation, on his return from the meeting, that the papers presented at this Conference were upon much more fundamental aspects of planning than was the case some years ago. Although this may be due primarily to depression conditions and current research and planning activities arising from them, he states he likes to think of the probability that the work of some of the committees and individuals of The American Institute of Architects during a good many years has contributed somewhat to that result.

Francis J. Plym Fellowship.

The award of the Francis J. Plym Fellowship to William Vernon Reed, now located in Washington, D. C., has been announced.

The competition subject was "A Fine Residence", to be located on the shore line of a large inland lake, on rolling ground, and abounding in natural growth.

The Fellowship is valued at \$1,200, to be used toward defraying the expenses for one year in Europe for the study of architecture.

Mr. Reed graduated from the University of Illinois in 1930, with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Architecture, and as a student made a splendid scholastic record, receiving the School Medal of the A. I. A. In 1934 he received the degree of Master of Architecture from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Applications for Membership

July 30, 1935

Notice to Members of the Institute:

The names of the following applicants may come before the Board of Directors, or its Executive Committee, for action on their admission to the Institute, and if elected, the applicants will be assigned to the Chapters indicated:

<i>Boston Chapter</i> - - - - -	STEWART A. LYFORD, ARNOLD PERRETON, LAURENT CHARLES ROY, WILLIAM BRADFORD SPROUT, JR., GEORGE R. THOMAS
<i>Buffalo Chapter</i> - - - - -	JOSEPH E. FRONCZAK
<i>Chicago Chapter</i> - - - - -	B. D. ANDY ANDERSON, WILLIAM P. DOERR
<i>Cleveland Chapter</i> - - - - -	RUSSELL SIMPSON
<i>Delaware Chapter</i> - - - - -	WESTON HOLT BLAKE
<i>Florida North Chapter</i> - - - - -	HARRY MILTON GRIFFIN
<i>Florida South Chapter</i> - - - - -	HAROLD D. STEWARD
<i>Kansas City Chapter</i> - - - - -	GEORGE JACKSON DAVIDSON, E. M. ROBISON
<i>Northern California Chapter</i> - - - - -	ROBERT STANTON
<i>New Jersey Chapter</i> - - - - -	SETH HARRISON ELY, JR., HARRY MASLOW
<i>New York Chapter</i> - - - - -	ROBERT H. SCANNELL
<i>Oregon Chapter</i> - - - - -	WALTER E. KELLY
<i>Philadelphia Chapter</i> - - - - -	JOHN ARNOLD BOWER
<i>St. Louis Chapter</i> - - - - -	JOHN M. DUNHAM
<i>South Georgia Chapter</i> - - - - -	STEPHEN P. BOND
<i>South Texas Chapter</i> - - - - -	LOUIS P. JOSSERAND
<i>Washington, D. C. Chapter</i> - - - - -	C. JEROME PILLOW, MAGNUS THOMPSON
<i>Wisconsin Chapter</i> - - - - -	WILLIAM CASPER SCHNEIDER

You are invited, as directed by the By-laws, to send privileged communications before August 30, 1935, on the eligibility of the candidates for the information and guidance of the members of the Board of Directors on their final ballot. No applicant will be finally passed upon should any Chapter request, within the thirty-day period, an extension of time for purpose of investigation.

CHARLES T. INGHAM,
Secretary

Members Elected—March 16 to July 15, 1935

<i>Alabama Chapter</i> - - - - -	HARRY PEMBLETON
<i>Boston Chapter</i> - - - - -	LUCAS EDWARD BANNON, EDWARD MELVILLE BRIDGE, SAMUEL E. HOMSEY, PHILIP DANA ORCUTT
<i>Brooklyn Chapter</i> - - - - -	JOSEPH MATHIEU, CHARLES E. SILKWORTH, JR.
<i>Buffalo Chapter</i> - - - - -	JAMES WILLIAM KIDENEY
<i>Central Illinois Chapter</i> - - - - -	JAMES B. NOBLE
<i>Central New York Chapter</i> - - - - -	CARL RICHARD STEPHANY

Members Elected—Continued

<i>Chicago Chapter</i>	- - - - -	WILLIAM N. ALDERMAN, HENRY DUBIN, JERROLD LOEBL, HENRY L. NEWHOUSE, II, LAWRENCE B. PERKINS, NORMAN J. SCHLOSSMAN
<i>Colorado Chapter</i>	- - - - -	A. LEICESTER HYDE, EARL C. MORRIS
<i>Columbus Chapter</i>	- - - - -	EFFLO EUGENE EGGERT, WALTER E. PETTIT
<i>Connecticut Chapter</i>	- - - - -	HAROLD DANA HAUF
<i>Delaware Chapter</i>	- - - - -	ALBERT KRUSE, GEORGE EDWIN POPE, ED- WARD MORRIS ROSENFELD, JAMES HARRI- SON WILSON THOMPSON, EDWIN YOUNG
<i>Detroit Chapter</i>	- - - - -	DON W. HUNTER
<i>Florida South Chapter</i>	- - - - -	THOMAS ADDISON BRUNO, CLARENCE EDWIN SHEFFIELD
<i>Indiana Chapter</i>	- - - - -	JOHN ROBERT KELLEY, CALLIX EDWIN MILLER
<i>Kansas Chapter</i>	- - - - -	RAYMOND A. COOLIDGE, T. R. GRIEST, THOMAS LARRICK
<i>Kansas City Chapter</i>	- - - - -	J. EVERETT JOHNS
<i>Minnesota Chapter</i>	- - - - -	ERNEST R. ERICKSON
<i>Mississippi Chapter</i>	- - - - -	JUAN GUSTAVE LANDRY
<i>New Jersey Chapter</i>	- - - - -	ALLAN F. KAMSTRA, ANDREW GREGORY OGDEN
<i>New York Chapter</i>	- - - - -	CHARLES F. FULLER, GEORGE BARR KAYSER, ARCHIE PROTOPAPAS, MORRIS B. SANDERS, FRITZ STEFFENS
<i>North Carolina Chapter</i>	- - - - -	LUCIAN JACKSON DALE
<i>Northern California Chapter</i>	- - - - -	HERVEY PARKE CLARK, HOWARD MOÏSE, JOHN DAVIS YOUNG
<i>Oregon Chapter</i>	- - - - -	HOLLIS E. JOHNSTON, ROY L. MORIN, JOHN T. SCHNEIDER
<i>Philadelphia Chapter</i>	- - - - -	S. ARTHUR LOVE, JR., HENRY D. MIRICK, GEORGE BROOKE ROBERTS, LANCELOT F. SIMS, JR.
<i>St. Louis Chapter</i>	- - - - -	CHARLES M. GRAY, EMIL H. NIEMANN, WALTER E. PAULEY
<i>South Carolina Chapter</i>	- - - - -	HEYWARD S. SINGLEY
<i>South Texas Chapter</i>	- - - - -	JAMES IRA CAMPBELL, CAMERON DOUGLAS FAIRCHILD, CLAUDE E. HOOTON, ALBERT HOWZE, HENRY EDWARD MADDOX, JR., MILTON B. MCGINTY, JOHN THOMAS RATH- ER, JR., ARTHUR KYLE STONE, EUGENE WERLIN
<i>Toledo Chapter</i>	- - - - -	THOMAS D. BEST, GEORGE HENRY ERARD, JOHN NOBLE RICHARDS, WILLIS A. VOGEL
<i>Utah Chapter</i>	- - - - -	LLOYD W. MCCLENAHAN
<i>Washington, D. C. Chapter</i>	- - - - -	E. PHILIP SCHREIER
<i>West Texas Chapter</i>	- - - - -	BARTLETT COCKE
<i>Wisconsin Chapter</i>	- - - - -	HERBERT W. TULLGREN

Committee Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen

The following Chairmen, and in some cases Vice-Chairmen, have been appointed for the Standing and Special Committees of the Institute, to serve until the adjournment of the 1936 Convention, as listed below:

Complete personnels of all committees will appear in the August number of THE OCTAGON.

Standing Committees

FINANCE (1) Edwin Bergstrom, <i>Chairman</i> , Los Angeles	PUBLIC WORKS (6) Francis P. Sullivan, <i>Chairman</i> Washington Frederick Mathesius, Jr., <i>Vice-Chairman</i> New York
PRACTICE (2) John P. B. Sinkler, <i>Chairman</i> Philadelphia George I. Lovatt, <i>Vice-Chairman</i> Philadelphia	BUILDING (7) D. Everett Waid, <i>Chairman</i> New York Dwight J. Baum, <i>Vice-Chairman</i> New York
JUDICIARY (3) William T. Warren, <i>Chairman</i> Birmingham	EDUCATION (8) William Emerson, <i>Chairman</i> Boston Charles Butler, <i>Vice-Chairman</i> New York
CONTRACTS (4) William Stanley Parker, <i>Chairman</i> Boston Thomas E. Snook, <i>Advisor</i> New York	COMPETITIONS (9) Egerton Swartwout, <i>Chairman</i> New York Branson V. Gamber, <i>Vice-Chairman</i> , Detroit
ALLIED ARTS (5) Ely Jacques Kahn, <i>Chairman</i> New York Ralph T. Walker, <i>Vice-Chairman</i> New York	PUBLIC INFORMATION (10) William Harmon Beers, <i>Chairman</i> New York

Special Committees

STRUCTURAL SERVICE (11) N. Max Dunning, <i>Chairman</i> Chicago	HONOR AWARDS (19) David J. Witmer, <i>Chairman</i> Los Angeles
PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS (12) Leicester B. Holland, <i>Chairman</i> Washington E. W. Donn, Jr., <i>Vice-Chairman</i> Washington	MEMBERSHIP (20) Ralph T. Walker, <i>Chairman</i> New York John R. Fugard, <i>Vice-Chairman</i> Chicago
REGISTRATION LAWS (13) Emery Stanford Hall, <i>Chairman</i> Chicago C. Julian Oberwarth, <i>Vice-Chairman</i> Frankfort	SCHEDULE OF CHARGES (21) M. H. Furbringer, <i>Chairman</i> Memphis
CITY AND REGIONAL PLANNING (14) Eliel Saarinen, <i>Chairman</i> Bloomfield Hills Henry Wright, <i>Vice-Chairman</i> New York	STATE SOCIETIES (22) John R. Fugard, <i>Chairman</i> Chicago Clair W. Ditchy, <i>Vice-Chairman</i> Detroit
NATIONAL CAPITAL (15) Francis P. Sullivan, <i>Chairman</i> Washington Frederick Mathesius, Jr., <i>Vice-Chairman</i> New York	FILING SYSTEM FOR ARCHITECTURAL PLATES (23) Wilbur H. Tusler, <i>Chairman</i> Minneapolis Roy Childs Jones, <i>Vice-Chairman</i> Minneapolis
FOREIGN RELATIONS (16) Julian Clarence Levi, <i>Chairman</i> New York	CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY RELATIONS (24) William Stanley Parker, <i>Chairman</i> Boston
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS (17) Edwin Bergstrom, <i>Chairman</i> Los Angeles	HOUSING (25) R. H. Shreve, <i>Chairman</i> New York
STANDARD ACCOUNTING (18) Edwin Bergstrom, <i>Chairman</i> Los Angeles	CONVENTION PROGRAM (26) William G. Nolting, <i>Chairman</i> Baltimore
	HISTORY OF THE INSTITUTE (27) Hobart B. Upjohn, <i>Chairman</i> New York

July, 1935

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